

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A method for applying a coating to a surface of a substrate, said method comprising:
 - providing a substantially rigid substrate;
 - forming said substrate to have a substantially uniform cross-sectional profile;
 - pushing said substrate through an aperture of a substrate coating device, said aperture substantially conforming to said cross-sectional profile of said substrate; and
 - applying, with said substrate coating device, a coating material to a surface of said substrate.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising heating at least a portion of said substrate to a temperature greater than an ambient temperature.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising treating said substantially rigid substrate.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said treating is selected from the group consisting of high pressure steam cleaning, high pressure air cleaning, solvent cleaning, water bath cleaning, cooling, stacking, and cutting said substrate into desired lengths.

PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No. 10/723,500
Docket No. 9002.16

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said providing a substantially rigid substrate further comprises providing a substantially rigid non-continuous substrate in series.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said heating said substrate further comprises heating said substrate to a temperature substantially greater than said ambient temperature ~~to promote a bond with said coating material.~~

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said applying comprises coating said substrate with said coating material such that said coating material comprises a substantially uniform thickness in the range of 0.001 inches to 0.250 inches.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said coating material is selected from the group consisting of acrylics, poly-vinyl chlorides (P.V.C.), A.B.S., polyesters, polypropylenes, A.S.A., and nylons.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said coating material comprises a thermal plastic.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said coating material comprises pigmentation.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said coating material comprises an absence of pigmentation.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said pushing step is automated.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said pushing step is manual.

14. (Previously presented) A method for applying a coating to a non-continuous substrate, said method comprising:

providing a non-continuous, substantially rigid substrate having a substantially uniform cross-sectional profile;

providing a substrate coating device having a first aperture substantially conforming to said cross-sectional profile and a second aperture larger than, but conforming to, said first aperture, wherein said substrate coating device further comprises a substrate coating material to coat said substrate when said substrate is passed through said first and said second apertures;

heating said substrate to a temperature substantially greater than an ambient temperature; and

pushing said substrate through said first and second apertures of said substrate coating device to coat at least a portion thereof.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising treating said substrate.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said treating is selected from the group consisting of high pressure steam cleaning, high pressure air cleaning, solvent cleaning, water bath cleaning, cooling, stacking, and cutting said substrate into desired lengths.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said non-continuous substrate comprises a plurality of substrate lengths, each substrate length having a substantially identical cross-sectional profile.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said pushing said substrate further comprises pushing each of said plurality of substrate lengths through said first and second apertures of said substrate coating device in series.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said pushing said substrate through said first and second apertures further comprises applying, with said substrate coating device, said coating material to said substrate.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein ~~said applying further~~
~~comprises coating said substrate with said coating material such that~~ said coating material
comprises a substantially uniform thickness in the range of 0.001 inches to 0.250 inches.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said coating material is
selected from the group consisting of acrylics, poly-vinyl chlorides (P.V.C.), A.B.S., polyesters,
polypropylenes, A.S.A., and nylons.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said coating material
comprises thermal plastic.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said coating material
comprises pigmentation.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said coating material
comprises an absence of pigmentation.